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Cc: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Wed 11/4/2015 9:50:02 PM
Subject: CO Springs TV crew

Hi Liane,

How are you doing? I hear you guys are getting a really bad storm today. Please stay safe!

Really appreciate you asking about how to respond to the Channel 13/KRDO questions. If it's not too late, we've talked a lot about notifications, and you're welcome to touch on any of these points if they're useful for you.

At the time of the release, the road was destroyed and the EPA crew was trapped with no cell phone coverage. The EPA crew radioed to an EPA ERRS contractor who was off-site to notify him of the situation. The contractor contacted a team from the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) who had been assisting EPA at Gold King Mine but who were off-site at that time. EPA and DRMS personnel then communicated via radio and the EPA on-scene coordinator instructed DRMS to make notifications to downstream communities.

Our internal review recommends that we develop guidance on downstream outreach and notifications.

EPA should develop guidance to outline the steps that should be undertaken to minimize the risk of an adit blowout associated with investigation or cleanup activities. The guidance, at a minimum, should: a. Identify a tiered approach that requires increased detail regarding the proposed action based on the complexity of the site conditions or the potential nature of any release. b. Provide criteria to identify whether a proposed investigation or cleanup action presents a low, moderate, or high risk with respect to the potential for an adit blowout and significant release of acid mine drainage or mine waste. c. Require that a management review meeting(s), including the key state (and other federal agencies when appropriate) be held to determine whether sufficient information exists to meet the criteria established in the guidance or whether additional information is necessary before undertaking the investigation or cleanup activity. d. Outline the outreach activities to inform the local community and stakeholders. e. Identify the contingency planning that may be appropriate based upon the risk of blowout and the nature of the potential release.

And we've launched a review of regional and area notification plans.

Hope this is helpful. Let me know how the interview goes!

All my best,

Christie

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